National Consultation on empowering livelihood for BPL people

1619. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a 3-day national consultation on empowering livelihood was held to dicsuss the concerns relating to rural economy and development with a focus on over 300 million people living below poverty line in the country;

(b) whether the Poorest Areas Civil Society Programme is being implemented in six States with the help of British Government;

(c) what is the criteria adopted in selecting the States; and

(d) what are the reasons for including the State of Andhra Pradesh from the above programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development did not hold any National Consultation on empowering livelihood in the recent past.

(b) to (d) As per information furnished by the Department of Economic Affairs, the Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Programme is being implemented in various States of India under the funding by Department For International Development (DFID), Government of U.K. Currently the programme is spread across in six States in India i.e., Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The PACS is an NGO Programme directly funded by DFID and the criteria adopted in selecting the States or the project or the NGO rests with DFID. It is reported that presently this programme is not in operation in Andhra Pradesh.

New projects under IWDP in Rajasthan

1620. DR.T3YAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajasthan Government has sought sanction for 30 watershed programmes running under IWDP;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and